

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3433

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22724

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FOR IATF AND ORM FROM ROSENBLATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES REMAINING IN THAILAND

REF: A) BANGKOK 22360 B) BANGKOK 22493

1. AS OCT 31 APPROACHES THE BULK OF REFUGEES IN CATEGORIES I AND II (BLOOD RELATIVES AND USG EMPLOYEES) WILL HAVE MOVED TO THE US OR THIRD COUNTRIES. REFTELS PROVIDE MOST RECENT EMBASSY ESTIMATES AS TO ADDITIONAL INS NUMBERS NEEDED FOR CAT I AND II AND SOME EXCEPTIONAL CAT III CASES.

2. TO SUPPLEMENT REFTELS IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE ALSO THAT THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF SOLID HIGH RISK CAT III REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS. AS CATEGORY I AND II CASES HAVE TAKEN PRIORITY AND AS THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING INFLUX FROM CAMBODIA AND LAOS THE NUMBERS (PRE AND POST-JUL 1) ARE DIFFICULT TO DEFINE. THE REFUGEES IN THIS CATEGORY ARE BY-AND-LARGE CLEARLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USG OR FORMER REGIMES AND HAVE ENOUGH ENGLISH OR FRENCH TO MAKE IT IN THE UNITED STATES. ROUGH, RPT ROUGH ESTIMATE OF HIGH RISK CAT III POPULATION AMOUNTS TO SEVERAL THOUSAND.

3. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT MENTION OF SUCH NUMBERS OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE REFUGEES AT A STAGE WHEN A DEADLINE
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IS IMPENDING WILL CAUSE SOME HEARTBURN IN WASHINGTON.

THE DOOR IS SWINGING SHUT NOW THAT MOST ELIGIBLE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN PROCESSED. IT CAN BE SLAMMED BUT THIS WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE CASELOAD HAS BEEN SO GREAT AND SEEPAGE FROM CAMBODIA HAS BEEN SO HIGH. FOR EXAMPLE, CASES WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS WILL TAKE SEVERAL MORE WEEKS TO RESOLVE AND MANY OF THESE INVOLVE CONGRESSIONAL AND VOLAG INTEREST. SLAMMING THE DOOR WOULD CREATE MANY ADDITIONAL SUCH PROBLEMS CASES.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY RECOMMENDED (REFTEL B) AUTHORITY TO PROCESS ADDITIONAL REFUGEES CHIEFLY IN CATS I AND II. THE SAME AUTHORITY SHOULD BE CONTEMPLATED FOR CAT III CASES. IT IS REALIZED THAT DEVELOPING SUCH AN ON-GOING MECHANISM FOR PROCESSING CAT III CASELOAD WILL BE DIFFICULT AND MAY TAKE SOME TIME, BUT THIS APPEARS BEST SOLUTION FOR A SITUATION WHICH HAS EVOLVED BEYOND PARAMETERS EXISTING AT TIME NUMBERS WERE SET.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TAKING OF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES COULD BE LINKED TO MORE SERIOUS THIRD COUNTRY EFFORT AND EVEN, PERHAPS, TO CONCRETE THAI MOVES TO MORE PERMANENTLY RESETTLE THOSE REFUGEES WHO WILL REMAIN HERE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NUMBERS OF CAT III REFUGEES REMAINING, ESPECIALLY AMONG KHMER, MAY BE DRAWN DOWN BY FRENCH RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM NOW AT 600 REFUGEE PER MONTH LEVEL.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ITFE.

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